PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHINO VALLEY WOMAN CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLEMENT

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced today that Jeanne Marie Pollard, (AGE 42), of Chino Valley, Arizona, appeared before Magistrate Judge Stephen L.. Verkamp in Flagstaff, Arizona for her Initial Appearance to face charges that from 1992 through December, 1999 she embezzled $325,336.27 from the Prescott Convention Center and Resort located within the confines of the Yavapai Prescott Indian Reservation, Prescott, Arizona.

The Complaint alleges that as the assistant comptroller, Ms. Pollard had access to the daily cash receipts of the Convention Center and would embezzle various sums of money on a weekly basis, falsifying the Convention Center records to cover up the thefts. Ms Pollard was summoned before the Court, waived the Preliminary Hearing and released with pretrial supervision pending further proceedings before the District Court.

The federal Complaint charges Ms. Pollard with one Count of violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 661 (Theft within the Special Maritime and Territorial Jurisdiction of the United States). A conviction for violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 661 carries a maximum penalty of five (5) years in prison, a $250,000 fine or both and restitution to the victim.

(MORE)

The filing of a Complaint is simply the method by which a person is initially charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Flagstaff, Arizona. The prosecution is being handled by Mark E. Aspey, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-4035M
RELEASE NUMBER: 2002-042

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